

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10
/168 W

-----013087 081216Z /41

P 081154Z SEP 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3856
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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USMTN

ACTION STR PASS ELECTRONICALLY

STR PASS CODEL

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD, CA
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH CANADA MTN DEL ON FALL WORK
- PROGRAM

1. US DEL (HAMERSCHLAG, WHITE) MET INFORMALLY WITH
CANADIAN MTNDEL (CLARK ET AL) ON SEPTEMBER 6 TO DISCUSS
THE FALL WORK PROGRAM. THE SESSION WAS DEVOTED SOLELY TO
BILATERAL ISSUES. ITEMS SLATED FOR EARLY ATTENTION
INCLUDED THE "MADE IN CANADA" ISSUE (MACHINERY PROGRAM),
THE FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR, US REQUESTS FOR TARIFF IMPROVE-
MENTS, THE AIRCRAFT SECTOR, AND WINE-GALLON.

2. CLARK STRESSED THAT CANADA'S PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OVER
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THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WAS TO REACH AN EARLY AGREEMENT WITH
THE US ON TARIFFS WHICH WOULD TRANSLATE INTO FIRM CONCES-
SIONS THE US OFFERS NOW ON THE TABLE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED
(WITHOUT PRODDING FROM THE US SIDE) THAT CANADA'S CURRENT
TARIFF OFFER WAS INADEQUATE, AND SAID OTTAWA WAS WORKING
ON IMPROVEMENTS THAT WERE NECESSARY TO HOLD THE US OFFER
ON THE TABLE. CLARK BELIEVED THAT AN EARLY US-CANADA

TARIFF AGREEMENT WOULD ISOLATE THFSEC, AND INCREASE CHANCES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE EC OFFER.

3. IN THE FOREST PRODUCTS AREA BOTH DELS AGREED THAT WORK SHOULD PROCEED QUICKLY TOWARD WRAPPING UP AN AGREEMENT. THE ONLY SERIOUS GAP WAS THE APPARENT WIDE DIFFERENCE ON PLYWOOD STANDARDS. IN THE PAPER SECTOR THE US SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO SET FORTH CLEARLY THE COMMODITY COVERAGE IN TERMS OF THE CANADIAN TARIFF, AND THIS WOULD REQUIRE NEW TARIFF LINES TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE EXISTING CANADIAN BASKET CATEGORIES. THE US ALSO WANTED TO DISCUSS CERTAIN PAPER PRODUCTS NOT INCLUDED IN THE CANADIAN SECTOR PROPOSAL ON WHICH DEEPER CUTS WERE NEEDED. ON WOOD PRODUCTS, WHERE THE PLYWOOD STANDARDS ISSUE BLOCKED AGREEMENT, THE CANADIANS SUGGESTED THAT A MEETING IN GENEVA MIGHT BE USEFUL. ALTHOUGH THE SESSION WOULD FOCUS ON THE STANDARDS ISSUE, IT WOULD BE IN THE CONTEXT OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE WOOD PRODUCTS SECTOR, AND WOULD CONCENTRATE ON FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE US INDUSTRY COMPLAINT OF ACCESS PROBLEMS TO THE CANADIAN MARKET RATHER THAN GETTING TOO NARROWLY INVOLVED WITH STANDARDS EXPERTS WHOSE INTERESTS MIGHT BE MORE PAROCHIAL. US DEL BELIEVES THIS APPROACH WOULD BE HELPFUL, AND AN EARLY SESSION IN GENEVA SHOULD BE SCHEDULED.

4. THE US EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHES TO A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESOLUTION OF THE "MADE IN CANADA" ISSUE, AND IN PARTICULAR THE MACHINERY PROGRAM. CLARK SAID CANADA WAS AWARE THAT THE MACHINERY PROGRAM WAS THE KEY TO A SATISFACTORY TARIFF PACKAGE, AND OTTAWA WOULD HAVE A RESPONSE SHORTLY TO THE US REQUEST. HE AGREED THAT DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS AS SOON AS AMBASSADOR GREY RETURNED TO GENEVA NEXT WEEK. CANADA ALSO WANTED AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE CLASSIFICATION PROBLEM FOR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND WOULD SHORTLY BE SUBMITTING THE PROMISED LIST OF SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT.

5. ON NONTARIFF MEASURES OF BILATERAL INTEREST, CANADA WANTED AN EARLY MEETING ON WINE-GALLON (REPORTED SEPTEL) AND IS STUDYING RECENT US LEGISLATION ON CUSTOMS TO SEE THE EXTENT TO WHICH CANADIAN REQUESTS HAVE BEEN MET. CANADA POINTED OUT IT HAD NOT YET RECEIVED A RESPONSE TO THE NTM REQUESTS RELATING TO RAILWAY EQUIPMENT (GENEVA 8255).

6. DRAFTED BY HAMERSCHLAG. CULBERT

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